

# THE BRETHREN JOURNAL



Vol. 123

July and August 2024

No. 6

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*Happy Encounter Campers at the Hus Encampment*

## **IN THIS ISSUE...**

*The First Persecution of the Unity...* by Jim Pokorny

Seaton Brethren Church Activities

BYF Retreat and Volleyball Tournament Information

**...AND MORE!!**

## THE BRETHREN JOURNAL

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# The First Persecution of the Unity

By Jim Pokorny

The ancient Unity of the Brethren was still in its infancy. The community had been blessed with leaders like Gregory and Michael. There were guidelines for life in the community based on Scripture and the Articles of Prague. Twenty-eight Elders had been elected to guide the people spiritually. The Brethren even successfully navigated the waters of contention that could have ultimately destroyed them. But unknown to them, their troubles had just begun.

Although King Gorge Podiebrad of Bohemia had a reputation as a just ruler, it was he that would become the first persecutor of the Brethren. Podiebrad ascended the throne as the result of the Diet whose members were Utraquist and Catholic. He took a solemn oath to uphold

the Roman Catholic Church, obey the Pope and put an end to all sects and heresies. Upon his coronation, he took another oath to uphold the Compacta. On a personal level, he was determined to crush anarchy such as those brought about by the Hussite Wars. Podiebrad found himself in a difficult position. He had to obey two oaths while observing developments in religious and political affairs.

This opened the door to personal ambition. The German empire was in a state of confusion due to the weak leadership of Frederick. Podiebrad now set his sights upon being elected Roman King and, with that, Regent of the Empire. His councilor, Martin Mayr, suggested this. But for this to succeed, help

→

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Worship 10:15 AM

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from Rome was required where Pius the Second was Pope. The Pope had visited Bohemia and was impressed enough by Podiebrad to see this as a means of bringing all under the Papal Hierarchy. In February 1461, Podiebrad returned to Prague after meeting with German Princes and Electors. He had not yet made his ambition known but he saw the prospect grow more possible even though he was not of noble blood.

It was also at this time that he received complaints from the Utraquist Consistory about these Brethren whom he allowed to settle in Kunwald. For one thing, they had changed the ceremonies of The Lord's Supper. They would not admit everyone to the sacrament because of their strict discipline. Moreover, they held secret assemblies. Neighboring parishes willingly confirmed these reports. Now, just as Podiebrad's aspirations seemed to be within reach, here were reports of new heresies

trying to gain a foothold within his kingdom. This outraged Podiebrad. He was further riled by additional reports concerning some students at the University of Prague and several fanatical sects wandering through the country.

Podiebrad determined that he must quickly convince Pius the Second that he meant to honor his oaths and that he would not permit either sects or heresies to exist in Bohemia. He immediately issued an edict commanding every one of his subjects to join either the Utraquist or the Roman Catholic Churches. Furthermore, Taborites and Picards had to leave the country, and many considered the Brethren to be Picards. According to the Czech historian Palacky, an investigation at the University began on March 15, 1461. This resulted in the arrest, imprisonment, and banishment of several students, professors, and Masters.

About this time, Gregory travel-



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Cell: 505-715-2003

Email: [rev.robbyprice@gmail.com](mailto:rev.robbyprice@gmail.com)

Church: [wallbrethren@gmail.com](mailto:wallbrethren@gmail.com)

[www.WallBrethrenChurch.net](http://www.WallBrethrenChurch.net)

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*Youth & Discipleship*  
*Pastor*  
Brady Collard  
254-229-5217

*Church Office*  
*Secretary*  
Roxie Holik  
M-Th-7:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

led to Prague to visit the Brethren. A meeting was to take place at a house of the Neustadt. Two Elders, Augustin Halar and George of Funfkirchen, and two students, George of Sussic and Peter of Ledec were to attend. The King was informed of the meeting and ordered that all were to be arrested and examined “under the cruel usage of the age.” A friendly magistrate warned Gregory who advised the Brethren to scatter. Some heeded his advice. Others, mostly students, did not. They boasted, “The torture shall be our breakfast and the stake our dinner!” Gregory felt it was his duty to remain. Soon, the same magistrate entered with two bailiffs. He announced, “All that live godly shall

suffer persecution. You, therefore, who have gathered will follow me to prison!”

It was the rack that awaited their arrival. The previously boastful students began to recant quickly under torture. According to Plitt, “After having tasted of their breakfast, they had no appetite for their dinner.” Gregory did not recant and remained firm. When his torture ceased, he fell from the rack in an almost lifeless state. His Uncle Rokycana rushed to the chamber upon hearing this and burst into tears and laments. Gregory was alive but he was in tremendous pain. The first persecution of the Brethren had begun.

# TAYLOR BRETHREN CHURCH

Seventh Street at Sloan in Taylor, Texas – 512-352-6423  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 351, Taylor, TX 76574  
Church email: [taylorbrethren@sbcglobal.net](mailto:taylorbrethren@sbcglobal.net)

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. Worship: 10:15 a.m.

*Pastor*  
*James D. Hejl*  
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*Board President*  
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<https://www.crosschurchoonbirdcreek.org>

[youtube.com/channel/UCVsyYokWvdtloeQi9151rCA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVsyYokWvdtloeQi9151rCA)

(254) 778-8759

Rev. Tim Chaplin  
(254) 718-6094

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
Worship: 10:45 a.m.

[tpch4359@gmail.com](mailto:tpch4359@gmail.com)



## Great Payback Comeback Thank You

A huge thank you to all who came out for the workday at The Hus Camp on June 1st. We had a long list of things to do and virtually all got done. Particular thanks to Phillip & Carol Michalik and Ross & Brenda Griggs for organizing the event and providing our meal. We had 26 people come on a hot, muggy Saturday to get ready for campers. Say thanks to these folks if you see them. FYI, We have 162 kids signed up for our camps this year. It's one of the largest groups in 10 years.







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# Seaton Brethren Men's Brotherhood Holds "Ladies Nite-Out" Dinner

On April 30th, 2024, the Seaton Brethren Church Men's Brotherhood held their annual "Ladies Nite-Out" dinner. The guest speaker was Rev. David Johnson of the New Tabor congregation. Also accompanying were some members of New Tabor: Leroy and Debbie Zavodny, Bill and Kim Idlewine, Shirley Vavra, Diane Surovik and Susan Skrabanek.

After giving his message, "Let your cup overruneth", Psalm 23 verses 1 thru 5, the Brotherhood presented a check toward New Tabor's re-construction program of their church sanctuary. The Brotherhood vice-chairman, Leonard Mikeska, made the presentation to Pastor David.



# Seaton Christian Sisters Spring Luncheon

The Seaton Christian Sisters have a spring luncheon each year which was held on Saturday, May 18, 2024. The ladies of the church, community and friends are invited. Sandwiches, salads, desserts, tea and coffee are provided. A short program was held entitled “Weeds can be Flowers Too”. A small token is given to each lady that attends. It is very uplifting when the ladies share stories about their life and how God is working in their life.



# Seaton Christian Sisters Supports the Bell County Rainbow Room

The Seaton Brethren Church Christian Sisters continue to support the Rainbow Room of Bell County. The Rainbow Room supports Child Protective Services with items needed for children that are in foster care and with families that take care of the children. Items always needed are clothing, diapers, shelf safe foods, snacks, detergent and other items they request.



## **BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION BRETHREN CHURCH**

2650 Earl Rudder Freeway South  
[www.unityofbrethren.org](http://www.unityofbrethren.org)



**Rev. Mark Sebek**

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 9283  
College Station, TX 77842

Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.  
Church at 10:30 a.m.  
Off. 979-693-3606  
email: [papasebek@gmx.com](mailto:papasebek@gmx.com)

## 2024 Summer Camp Dates

### ENCOUNTER

ages 7-9 yrs old

Camp cost: \$250

Camp Date: June 9 - 12

### ALPHA

ages 10-11 yrs old

Camp cost: \$350

Camp Date: July 21 - 25

### PIONEER

ages 12-13 yrs old

Camp cost: \$350

Camp Date: June 23 - 28

### DISCOVERY

ages 14-15 years old

Camp cost: \$350

Camp Date: June 16 - 21

### CHALLENGER

ages 16-19 years old.

Camp cost: \$350

Date: Not Held in 2024

### HUS SCHOOL

In depth Leadership

Program ages 16-Adult

Cost: \$550

Date: July 7 - 19

### For more information

about the Hus School Encampment go to ...  
[www.huscamp.org](http://www.huscamp.org)

*Does your church/organization have an activity that you would like to include in this listing? Please send activity information including a contact name, phone number and/or email address to the Brethren Journal Editor at: [editor.brethrenjournal@gmail.com](mailto:editor.brethrenjournal@gmail.com). Information must be received by the first day of the month immediately preceding the month of publication.*

## HOUSTON BRETHERN CHURCH

6207 North Main, Houston, TX 77009 - (713) 864-6707

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday School 9:15 a.m. - Church Service 10:30 a.m.

**Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Terrill**

*Donna Verwold*  
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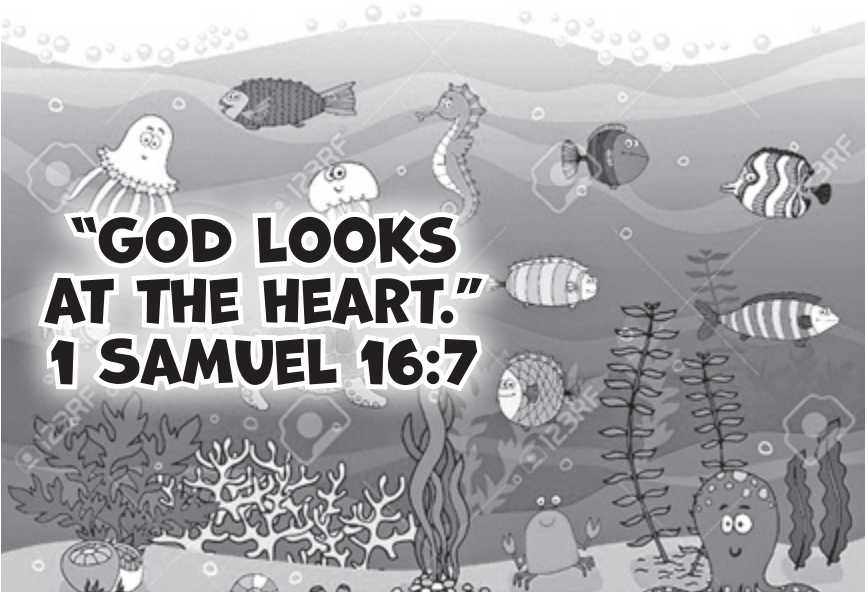
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Call: 713-553-5542

*Rita Tyson*  
*Secretary*

22015 Golden Cedar Dr.  
Cypress, TX 77433  
Cell: 713-899-8272



# SUNDAY SCHOOL HELPER



Just like last month, this month is all about size. While we learned about the largest animal in the ocean, the whale, this month we learn about one of the smallest animals in the ocean—The Shrimp. Even though they are small, they play a big part in the ecosystem of the ocean.

**Bible Story:** David is Anointed as King

**Scripture:** 1 Samuel 16: 1-13

**Focus:** God makes a way where things seem impossible, He can do big things.

**Materials:**

Have everyone line up from shortest to tallest. Explain that when looking for a king, everyone expects the biggest, tallest and strongest person to be picked. But God had a different choice. God cares about the inside, not how we look on the outside.

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 16:1-13. Read or retell the story in your own words. Ask: Who did everyone expect Samuel would choose to be the next king? Who was chosen? Why was this a surprise? What did Samuel say about God's choice for King?

**Game:** Are You the King

**Materials:** Small Crown

Have everyone sit in a straight line. Choose 1 child to be "it". Give the crown to another child to hide. They will be the King. "It" asks children in the line "Are you the king?". They can keep guessing until they find the King. Then the King gets to be it and choose another child to be the King. Continue until everyone has a turn.

**Game:** Gather the Sheep

**Materials:** White balloons, fan, tape

**Preparation:** Create a circle on the floor with tape. Blow up the balloons. They will be the sheep.

Tell the children, before David was king he was a shepherd. That means he took care of the sheep for his Dad. It wasn't an easy



job! Now you get to be a shepherd. Try to keep the sheep in the circle. Turn on the fan to gently blow the balloons around the room. Children try to keep the balloons in the circle. Play as long as children are interested.

### **Facts about Shrimp:**

1. Shrimp is a decapod crustacean that is consumed by humans.
2. Shrimp are sometimes called prawns.
3. It's estimated that humans have been catching and eating shrimp as far back as 600 AD.
4. There are over 2,000 species of shrimp live worldwide.
5. Shrimps have diverse dietary habits. They use various feeding techniques to obtain their food. Filtering the water is a common method, where they extract microscopic plant and animal matter from the surrounding environment. They also scavenge for food by sifting through the ocean floor.

### **Game:** Move Like an Ocean Creature

- Shrimp: moving back and forth with quick, twitching movements
- Clam: arms straight out in front opening and closing like a clam shell
- Crab: crawling sideways
- Jellyfish: bobbing up and down
- Turtle: using hands as flippers to swim
- Octopus: twisting arms around as if crawling along a rock
- Shark: moving steadily around with arms over head, head bent, and palms flat against each other
- Squid: moving in short spurts backwards and forwards

### **Craft:** Shrimp Origami

Find directions here: [youtube.com/watch?v=sp5B-A5LR50](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sp5B-A5LR50)



# Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

**July 6, 2024 – Youth Retreat & Volleyball Tournament at the Hus Encampment.**

Check-in: Friday- 6:30 - 8:00 pm or Saturday- 8:00 am - 9:00 am.  
State Business meeting Saturday- 8:30 am. Worship and Communion- 9:30 am. Tournament begins- 10:00 am. Sunday dismissal is at 9:30 am.  
Everyone must leave the camp as camp staff and Hus School campers arrive Sunday afternoon.

For more information: [www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.org](http://www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.org) or [jennchervenka@gmail.com](mailto:jennchervenka@gmail.com) or (254) 913-1244

## Save the Dates ...

**Sept 7, 2024 – Fall Synodical Committee Meeting at the Hus Encampment – 9 a.m.** More information to come soon.

### **SNOOK BRETHREN CHURCH**

9882 F.M. 2155/ P.O. Box 247, Snook, TX 77878

Church Phone -- (979) 272-3303

**COME WORSHIP WITH US**

Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.; Worship - 10:15 a.m.

Bible Study - Each Tuesday, 9:00 a.m.

Men's Bible Study - Each Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.

**Pastor**

Rev. Joseph Polasek  
P.O. Box 54  
Snook, TX 77878  
(979) 272-1624

**Board of Elders President**

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### **NEW TABOR BRETHREN CHURCH**

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Mailing Address: P.O. Box 262, Caldwell, TX 77836

(979) 220-3822

Website: [newtaborchurch.com](http://newtaborchurch.com) Facebook: New Tabor Church

Sunday School: 9 a.m. Worship: 10 a.m.

*New Tabor Brethren is here for you. We're not only a church. We're a fellowship of believers coming together to declare the glory of the Lord.*

**Reverend David Johnson (979) 220-3822**  
[pastorjdbama@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjdbama@gmail.com)



# Daily Morsels for July 2024

by Mari-Anne K. Gordon

From the *Holy Bible New Revised Standard Version*, slightly modified.

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD. Ps. 130:1

2. Lord, hear my voice! Ps. 130:2a

3. If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? Ps. 130:3

4. But there is forgiveness with You, so that You may be revered. Ps. 130:4

5. I wait for the LORD; my soul waits, and in His word I hope. Ps. 130:5

6. With the LORD there is steadfast love, and with Him is great power to redeem. Ps. 130:7b

**7. Your name, O God, like your praise, reaches to the ends of the earth. Your right hand is filled with victory. Ps. 48:10**

8. This is God, our God forever

and ever. He will be our guide forever. Ps. 48:14

9. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this thorn in the flesh, that it would leave me. 2 Cor. 12:8

10. But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." 2 Cor. 12:9a

11. I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 2 Cor. 12:9b

12. Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ. 2 Cor. 12:10a

13. Whenever I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Cor. 12:10b

**14. The Lord said, "See, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass them by." Amos 7:8b**

15. Let me hear what God the

→

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**2nd, 3rd, and 4th**

**Saturdays**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Rev. Mike Groseclose**

[FayettevilleBrethrenChurch.org](http://FayettevilleBrethrenChurch.org)

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LORD will speak, for He will speak peace to His people, to His faithful, to those who turn to Him in their hearts. Ps. 85:8

16. Surely His salvation is at hand for those who fear Him, that His glory may dwell in our land. Ps. 85:9

17. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. Eph. 1:3

18. He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before Him in love. Eph. 1:4

19. He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God. Mic. 6:8

20. He destined us for adoption as His children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of His will. Eph. 1:5

**21. Praise His glorious grace that He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. Eph. 1:6**

22. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according

to the riches of His grace that He lavished on us. Eph. 1:7-8a

23. With all wisdom and insight He has made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure that He set forth in Christ. Eph. 1:8b-9

24. In His plan for the fullness of time, [He will] bring all things together in Him, things in heaven and things on earth. Eph. 1:10

25. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of Him who accomplishes all things according to His counsel and will. Eph. 1:11

26. May we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, live for the praise of His glory. Eph. 1:12

27. In Him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in Him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit. Eph. 1:13

**28. This is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of His glory. Eph. 1:14**

29. Remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. Eph. 2:12

30. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. Eph. 2:13

31. Through Him, both of us (far and near) have access in one Spirit to the Father. Eph. 2:18

**The Community Christian  
Church of Rosenberg**

**5220 Reading Road,  
Rosenberg, TX 77471  
(832) 449-3358**

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Eve 5:30 p.m.  
Prayer Service and Bible Study

# Daily Morsels for August 2024

by Mari-Anne K. Gordon

From the *Holy Bible New Revised Standard Version*, slightly modified.

1. According to the riches of His glory, may He grant that you be strengthened in your inner being with power through His Spirit. Eph. 3:16

2. May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith as you are being rooted and grounded in love. Eph. 3:17

3. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, the breadth and length and height and depth (of His love). Eph. 3:18

**4. May you know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Eph. 3:19**

5. By the power at work within us, He is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine. Eph. 3:20

6. To Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Eph. 3:21

7. I lift up my eyes to the hills – whence will my help come? My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth. Ps. 121:1-2

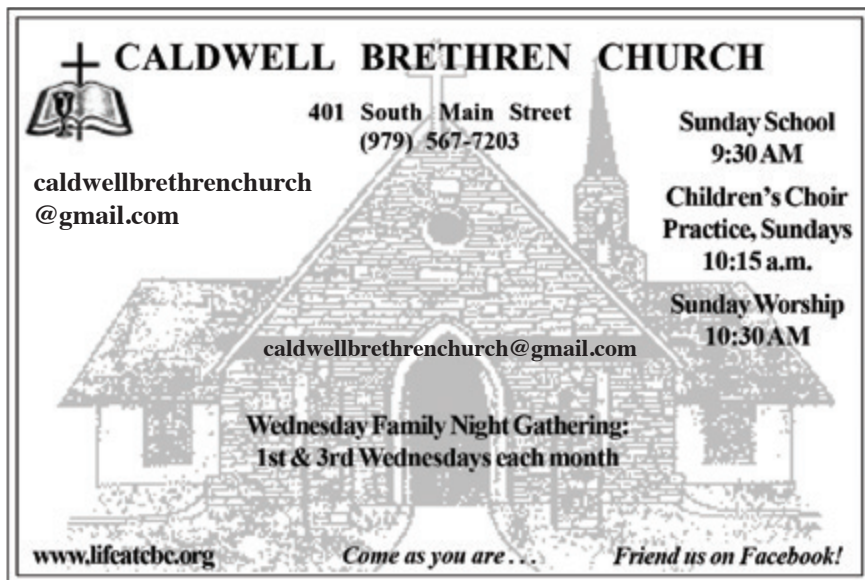
8. I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. Ps. 34:1

9. My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad. Ps. 34:2

10. O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together. Ps. 34:3

**11. I sought the LORD, and He answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Ps. 34:4**

→



**+** CALDWELL BRETHREN CHURCH

401 South Main Street  
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Sunday School  
9:30 AM

Children's Choir  
Practice, Sundays  
10:15 a.m.

Sunday Worship  
10:30 AM

caldwellbrethrenchurch@gmail.com

caldwellbrethrenchurch@gmail.com

Wednesday Family Night Gathering:  
1st & 3rd Wednesdays each month

www.lifecatbc.org      Come as you are . . .      Friend us on Facebook!

12. Look to Him, and be radiant, so your faces shall never be ashamed. Ps. 34:5

13. This poor soul cried, was heard by the LORD, and was saved from every trouble. Ps. 34:6

14. The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him and he delivers them. Ps. 34:7

15. O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in Him. Ps. 34:8

16. Do not work for the food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. Jn. 6:27

17. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. Jn. 6:33

**18. Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to Me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in Me will never be thirsty." Jn. 6:35**

19. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. Eph. 4:29

20. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemp-

tion. Eph. 4:30

21. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice. Eph. 4:31

22. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Eph. 4:32

23. Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children. Eph. 5:1

24. Live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Eph. 5:2

**25. Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. Ps. 111:1**

26. As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear Him. Ps. 103:13

27. He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever. Holy and awesome is His name. Ps. 111:9

28. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever. Ps. 111:10

29. Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise. Eph. 5:15

30. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts. Eph. 5:19

31. Give thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Eph. 5:20

## ***Knesek Family Funeral Chapels***



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# VITAL STATISTICS

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## NEW MEMBERS

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### NEW MEMBERS – SEATON BRETHERN CHURCH

**BEEBE, Brent** joined 06/05/2022

**BEEBE, Linda** joined 06/05/2022

**STOJANEK, Matthew** joined 04/14/2024

**STOJANEK, Trisha** joined 04/14/2024

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## DEATHS

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**MAREK, EDWIN FRANK**, 91, of Cameron died on February 23, 2024. He was born November 28, 1932, in East Bell County to Frank Robert & Dolphina (Jezek) Marek. He married Nelda Glaser, and she preceded him in death in 2021. Mr. Marek retired from Alcoa after more than 38 years. He served in the U.S. Army and was a member of the Seaton Brethren Church. He was also preceded in death by a son, Edwin Marek, Jr. in 2009 and by two brothers. He is survived by sons: Donny, Rodney and Dennis Marek. Brother, Marvin Marek and sisters: Elsie Macek, Dorothy Zaskoda, Gladys Richards and Linda Winn and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on February 27, 2024, at Seaton Brethren Church followed by burial at the Seaton Cemetery. Rev. Denise Mikeska officiated.

## SPJST Annuities



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# **INTERESTED IN BEING PART OF THE STATE YOUTH LEADERSHIP TEAM?**

**The leadership team is made  
up of adults, youth, and pastors.  
These individuals meet together  
to coordinate the state youth  
retreats and activities.**

**They are appointed at the  
business meeting each summer.**

**Please text, call, or email  
Jenn Chervenka at  
jennchervenka@gmail.com or  
(254) 913-1244  
if you are interested in serving.**

**To communicate with the HUS Encampment...**

...regarding scheduling\* of meetings or events there, contact:

Kent Laza

4913 F.M. 166

Caldwell, TX 77836

(979) 220-1957

Kent.laza@verizon.net

*\*This must be done well in advance.*

**MUTUAL AID SOCIETY  
LOCAL SECRETARIES**

Granger #1: Donna Vitek, PO Box 943,  
Granger TX 76530,  
dlvitek@yahoo.com

Taylor #3: Pat Daffin, 2950 FM 3349,  
Taylor TX 76574, 512-913-6084,  
pat.daff@yahoo.com

West #4: Mike James, 414 Fort Rd,  
Waco TX 76705-5718,  
pswmhjames@gmail.com

Fayetteville #5: Sandra Stepan, PO Box  
145, Fayetteville TX 78940, 512-468-  
2396, sandrainaustin@yahoo.com

Dime Box #6: Vacant\*

Snook #7: Ann Sebesta, PO Box 115,  
Snook TX 77878, 210-244-3362,  
sebestaa2015@outlook.com

Ocker #8: Sandra Dubcak, 3239 FM 437,  
Rogers TX 76569-3705,  
254-985-2374, sandrad@spjst.com

New Tabor #13: Connie Surovik, 1733  
St Hwy 21 E, Caldwell TX 77836,  
conniesurovik76@gmail.com

Nelsonville #14: Sondra Brau, PO Box  
252, Industry TX 78944, 979-820-5632

Seaton #16: Joyce Skrabanek, 7157 FM  
2086, Temple TX 76501, 254-721-  
6324, jjskrabanek@gmail.com

Wesley #18: Elaine Koehn,  
9053 Leaning Oak Lane, Brenham TX  
77833, 979-836-5196,  
koehns72@yahoo.com

Temple #20: Irene Marek, 2900 Pecan  
Valley Drive, Temple TX 76502,  
254-778-2120

Rosenberg #21: Cathy Kuritz, 5220  
Reading Rd, Rosenberg TX 77471,  
281-344-1386, mpruett3660@att.net

Westheimer #22: Vacant\*

Houston #23: Vacant\*

Wall #25: Sharon J. Hohmann,  
222 Crestwood Drive, San Angelo TX  
76903-9106, 325-651-5884

Caldwell #27: Brenda Schroeder,  
4193 FM 696, Caldwell TX 77836,  
979-280-5597

Crosby #28: Vacant\*

Austin #32: Vacant\*

Pasadena #33: Betty Orsag,  
5118 Coventry Ct, Friendswood TX  
77546-3001, 281-482-1501

B/CS #34: Natalie Outlaw, 7575 Wixon  
Road, Bryan TX 77808-8085, 979-  
589-2012, natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com

\*Contact Natalie Outlaw at  
979-589-2012 or  
natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com

-----  
**MUTUAL AID SOCIETY  
BOARD MEMBERS**

President: Joseph Polasek, PO Box 54,  
Snook TX 77878, 979-272-1624,  
josephjpolasek@yahoo.com

Vice President: Daniel Vojtek,  
5434 Marcia Lane, Bryan TX 77807,  
979-823-4147,  
cdvojtek05@yahoo.com

General & Jr. Dept. Secretary:  
Natalie Outlaw, 7575 Wixon Road,  
Bryan TX 77808-8085, 979-589-2012,  
natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Ruth Ann Wuensche,  
2451 CR 405, Taylor TX 76574,  
512-365-3013,  
ruthannwuensche@gmail.com

Board Member: Ann Sebesta,  
Box 115, Snook TX 77878, 210-244-  
3362, sebestaa2015@outlook.com

Board Member: James Marek,  
1304 T. H. Johnson Drive, Taylor TX  
76574, marek1304@hotmail.com

## FOREIGN MISSIONS BOARD

### Chairman:

Carolyn Groseclose (2023) – (Ocker)  
Missionaries invited to join the board but not  
as voting members

Alan Haisler – (2019) (BCS)  
Jerry Dove – (2019) (Fayetteville)  
Rev. Gerry Davis – (2019)  
Jon Farrow – (2019) (CCB - Temple)  
Connie Janac – (2023) (Snook)  
Open Seat

### Synodical Committee Liason (1st VP):

Rev. Joe Emerson

## MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS BOARD

**Rev. Vanessa Mitchell**  
(Pastor to the Pastors)

**Rev. Joe Emerson (member)**

**Rev. Jerry Terrill (member)**

**Rev. Mike Groseclose (member)**

## MINISTERS BENEFITS COMMITTEE

Liz Ripple, Executive Sec./Treas.

Members: Rev. Mike Groseclose,  
Rev. Tim Chaplin, & Rev. Joe Emerson  
Synodical Liason - - Rev. Mike  
Groseclose (2nd VP)

Ex-officio: Rev. Dr. Larry Koslovsky

## PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

**Chairman:** Jon Farrow: (254) 718-1938;  
[jfarrow@hotmail.com](mailto:jfarrow@hotmail.com)

Dan Merz (2021), Nelsonville  
James Marek: (512) 844-8520;  
[james.Marek@cnb.tbank](mailto:james.Marek@cnb.tbank)

Anna Wotipka: (979) 218-9043

**Advisors:** Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

**Synodical Committee Liason:**

Dr. Larry Koslovsky

## HUS SCHOOL ENCAMPMENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

*Please send ALL HUS SCHOOL  
DONATIONS TO: Susan Marek,  
Treasurer – see below for address*

**Chairman:** Kent Laza ([kent.laza@verizon.net](mailto:kent.laza@verizon.net)),  
4913 FM 166, Caldwell, TX 77836;  
(979) 220-1957 (2017 – BCS)

**Treasurer:** Susan Marek ([Marek1304@hotmail.com](mailto:Marek1304@hotmail.com)),  
1304 T H Johnson Dr.,  
Taylor, TX 76574; (512) 352-6165 (2021 –  
Taylor)

**Member:** Rick Weise (2017 – Wall)

**Member:** Angie Labaj Dolan (2019 – Temple)

**Members:** Ben Wilde (2021 – Ocker)  
Jennifer Chervenka (2017 – Ocker)  
Dillon Barbisch – 2023 (Ocker)

**Member:** Natalie See Kovar – 2023 (Snook)

The Encampment is governed by a Board  
of Trustees of 8 members. Chairperson  
is elected by the Convention. Terms: 2  
years, may be re-elected/re-appointed for a  
maximum of 4 terms or 8 years. (Unity of the  
Brethren By-Laws, Article XIV, Sec C.)

### Non-Voting Appointments

**Programming Director:** Jordan Barbisch  
[jordanbarbisch@gmail.com](mailto:jordanbarbisch@gmail.com)

**Facilities Manager:** Alan Haisler  
[haislera@ymail.com](mailto:haislera@ymail.com)

**Caretakers:** OPEN Position

**Synodical Committee Oversight:**

Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill, Synodical 3rd VP

## BRETHREN YOUTH LEADERSHIP TEAM 2023-24

### Youth Members:

Joanna Chervenka (Ocker)  
Jacelyn Chervenka (Ocker)  
Riley Green (Snook)  
Harper Houser (Wall)

Ryan Dusek (Wall)  
Katelyn Zrubek (Taylor)  
Anabelle Denise (Ocker)  
Alyson Cocke (Taylor)

### Adult Members:

Dillon Barbisch (Ocker)  
Teresa Cocke (Taylor)  
Brady Collard (Wall)  
Synodical Committee Liason: Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill, 3rd VP

Jordan Barbisch (Ocker)  
Kayla Marek (Taylor)  
Jennifer Chervenka (Youth Coordinator)



# SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

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**Bryan-College Station** – Sunday School at 9:15 AM and Worship at 10:30 AM every Sunday.

– Rev. Mark Sebek

---

**Buckholts** – Worship at 9 AM every Sunday except the 5th Sunday.  
Holy Communion on 1st Sunday.  
Guest speaker on 4th Sunday.

– Rev. John Kueker

---

**Caldwell** – Come as you are! **Sundays** – explore the Bible @ 9:30 AM (all ages); KIDS CHOIR practices @ 10:15 AM; & worship @ 10:30 AM! **Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday**, join the fun @ Family Game Night, 6-7:30 PM! Check out [lifeatcbc.org](http://lifeatcbc.org) for spiritual resources, events, videos, & more! Friend us on Facebook! [caldwellbrethrenchurch@gmail.com](mailto:caldwellbrethrenchurch@gmail.com)

– Rev. Joe Emerson

---

**Crosby** – 9 AM: Worship  
10 AM: Faith Adventure

– Rev. Dr. Larry Koslovsky

---

**Dime Box** – Worship at 9 AM every Sunday.

– Rev. Joe Emerson

---

**Fayetteville** – Worship at 10:00 AM. on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Saturdays.

– Rev. Mike Groseclose

---

**Good Shepherd Moravian** – Worship at 11:30 AM and 6:30 PM every Sunday.

– Pastor Jose Pantin Mora

---

**Granger** – Worship service Sundays, 10 AM.  
Bible Study Wednesdays, 5:30 PM.

– Pastor Judy Gotcher

---

**Houston** – Sunday School at 9:15 AM;  
Worship at 10:30 AM every Sunday.

– Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill

---

**Industry** – Worship at 5:00 PM on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Saturdays.

– Rev. Mike Groseclose

---

**Nelsonville** – Sunday School at 9 AM  
Worship at 10:15 AM

– Rev. Michael Groseclose

---

**New Beginnings** (1103 Harrisonburg Ln., College Station, TX 77845) – A Home Mission Project since 10/22/11 – Sunday School at 10:30 AM; Worship at 11:45 AM; Lunch after the service.

– Rev. Kay Polasek

---

**New Tabor** – Sunday School at 9 AM & Worship at 10 AM every Sunday, “Tune Up” on Wednesdays, 7:30 PM.

– Rev. David Johnson

---

**Ocker** – Worship at 10:15 AM every Sunday.  
Sunday School at 9 AM every Sunday.

– Rev. Dr. Brad Herridge

---

**Pasadena** – Sunday School at 9:30 AM  
and worship at 10:45 AM every Sunday.

– Rev. Dr. Larry Koslovsky

---

**Community Christian Church of Rosenberg** –  
Sunday: Adult Bible Study and Sunday School  
for children at 9 AM; worship at 10:30 AM.  
Wednesday: 5:30 PM Dinner; 6:30 PM Bible  
Study.

– Pastor Ben Kruse

---

**Seaton** – Sunday, 9:15 AM –Prayer Gathering;  
9:30 AM – Sunday School, All Ages;  
10:30 AM – Worship Celebration Service.  
Wednesday, 6:30 PM – Kids' and Adult  
Bible Study.

– Rev. Denise Mikeska

---

**Snook** – Sunday School – 9:00 AM;  
Worship – 10:15 AM.

– Rev. Joseph Polasek

---

**Taylor** – Worship at 10:15 AM every Sunday.  
Sunday School 9 AM every Sunday with  
free breakfast every 5th Sunday at 8:30  
AM.; Friends Fellowship (seniors) 4th  
Tuesday (except Nov. & Dec.) at 2 PM.

– Rev. James Hejl

---

**Temple** – Cross Church on Birdcreek –  
Sunday School at 9:30 AM.; Worship at  
10:45 AM.

– Rev. Tim Chaplin

---

**Vsetin** – A non-official member congregation  
of the Unity of the Brethren – Worship at  
10 AM every Sunday.

– Rev. Dr. Mark Labaj  
5th Sunday – Visiting Ministers

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**Wall** – Sunday School (all ages) at 9:30 AM;  
worship at 10:45 AM every Sunday.  
Wednesday – Children's Awanas, 5:30 PM.

– Rev. Robbie Price

---

**Wesley** – Worship at 9 AM every Sunday.  
Sunday School follows.

– Rev. Michael Groseclose

---

**West** – Sunday School at 9 AM and  
worship at 10:15 AM every Sunday.

– Rev. Gerald Davis

---

**Westheimer Community** – Worship at  
10:30 AM every Sunday.

– Supply Pastors

---

## DIRECTORY OF MISSIONARIES

Pastor Pavel and Stanya Kozak  
Norska 42  
77900 Olomouc  
Czech Republic  
e-mail: Pavel.Ko@volny.cz

Phil & Eunice Raiford  
(parents' address in U.S.)  
230 SW Sandy Way  
Port Saint Lucie, FL 34986  
pbrmissions@gmail.com

Joel & Teresa Jelski  
Mazkeret Moshe  
19  
Jerusalem 9431619  
Israel

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE  
"Bear ye one another's burdens  
And so fulfill the Law of Christ." (Gal. 6:2)

## THE MUTUAL AID SOCIETY

Rev. Joseph J. Polasek, President  
Daniel Vojtek, Vice-President  
Natalie Outlaw, Gen. & Jr. Dept.  
Secretary, 979-589-2012  
Ruth Ann Wuensche, Treasurer  
James Marek, Board Member  
Ann Sebesta, Board Member  
Synodical Liaison: Rev. Mike  
Groseclose, 2nd Vice-President

## BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Chair: Jordan Barbisch (2019)  
(Ocker-elected Chair in 2023),  
jordanbarbisch@gmail.com  
Tiffany Hargraves – (2023) (Snook)  
Anna Wotipka – (2023) (Caldwell)  
Jonna See – (2023) (Snook)  
Open Seat  
Open Seat  
Jennifer Chervenka – Youth  
Coordinator (Ocker)  
Synodical Committee Liaison: Rev. Dr.  
Jerry Terrill, 3rd VP

## HOME MISSIONS BOARD

Chair: Rev. Joe Emerson, (2023)  
Alan Haisler – (2019) (BCS)  
Jerry Dove – (2019) (Fayetteville)  
Rev. Gerry Davis – (2019) (West)  
Jon Farrow – (2019) (CCB - Temple)  
Connie Janac – (2023) (Snook)  
Open Seat

## SYNODICAL COMMITTEE

**President:** Rev. Larry Koslovsky, (713) 594-4518  
**1st Vice President:** Rev. Joe Emerson,  
(254) 931-1653  
**2nd Vice President:** Rev. Mike Groseclose,  
(979) 865-3026  
**3rd Vice President:** Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill,  
(281) 744-1147  
**Secretary:** Loree Lewis,  
loreelewis91@gmail.com  
**Treasurer:** Lynette Urbanovsky Shimek, 13795  
Alacia Ct., College Station, TX 77845;  
(979) 450-1820, lurbanovsky@gmail.com  
**Financial Secretary:** Kayla Marek, 1804 Mallard  
Ln., Taylor, TX 76574, (512) 944-2619;  
kmarek2012@gmail.com  
**Administrative Assistant:** Liz Ripple, 311 W.  
State Hwy. 71, Fayetteville, TX 78940;  
(979) 378-2239, lizripple@hotmail.com  
**Ministerial Alternate:** Rev. Tim Chaplin,  
(254) 718-6094  
**Pastor to Pastors:** Rev. Vanessa Mitchell,  
(979) 574-0268  
**Non-Voting Lay Alternate:** Jordan Barbisch,  
Ocker  
**Lay Members:**  
BCS: Alan Haisler, haislera@ymail.com  
Buckholts: Charlene Vogelsang,  
cakv@hotmail.com  
Caldwell: Anna Wotipka,  
anawotipka58@gmail.com;  
Lynette Shimek;  
Crosby: Sharon Nelson, sne1001@msn.com  
Dime Box: Peggy Mensik, pbmensik@gmail.com  
Fayetteville: Sandra Stepan,  
sandrinaustin@yahoo.com  
Good Shepherd: Mateo Vargas, email to Delvia:  
niro\_del@yahoo.com  
Granger: No Representative  
Houston: Jay Zamora, jdzamora@aldineisd.org  
Industry: Harvey Treybig, harvey.treybig@gmail.com  
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Loree Lewis  
Taylor: Sidney Smensky,  
sid@brushycreekfarms.com;  
Kayla Marek  
Temple: Jim Hiles, jimhiles1959@gmail.com  
Wall: Paul Beatty, pbeatty@gmail.com;  
Wesley: No Representative  
West: Mike James, pswmhjames@gmail.com  
Westheimer: No Representative

## DIRECTORY OF PASTORS

Rev. Charles Amos, 845 Airville Road,  
Temple, TX 76501. (254) 791-9611

Rev. Whitney Amos, 845 Airville Road,  
Temple, TX 76501. (254) 913-5757

Rev. Tim Chaplin, 1326 Starlight Dr.,  
Temple TX 76502. (254) 718-6094;  
[tpch4359@gmail.com](mailto:tpch4359@gmail.com)

Pastor Brady Collard, 3829 Sandstone Rd.,  
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Rev. Gerald Davis, 1218 La Vega St.,  
Waco, TX 76705. (254) 342-9222;  
[grdwbc20@gmail.com](mailto:grdwbc20@gmail.com)

Rev. Joe Emerson, 5404 Southern  
Crossing Dr., Temple, TX 76502.  
(254) 931-1653;  
[joe.emerson\\_ma@yahoo.com](mailto:joe.emerson_ma@yahoo.com)

Pastor Judy Gotcher, 18571 St. Hwy 95,  
Holland, TX 76534; 254-541-2089

Rev. Michael Groseclose, 352  
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77418. (979) 277-4816

Rev. James D. Hejl, 309 Cherrywood  
Circle, Taylor, TX 76574. (512) 365-6890

Rev. Dr. Brad Herridge, 5925 Mt.  
Rockwood Circle, Waco, TX 76710.  
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(979) 220-3822 (c);  
[pastordjbama@gmail.com](mailto:pastordjbama@gmail.com)

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[lwkoslo@aol.com](mailto:lwkoslo@aol.com)

Pastor Ben Kruse, 11714 Needville  
Fairchilds Road, Needville, TX  
77461; (713) 376-3646;  
[krusedadb@yahoo.com](mailto:krusedadb@yahoo.com)

Rev. John Kueker, P.O. Box 325,  
Buckholts, TX 76518. (254) 605-0434

Rev Dr. Mark L. Labaj, 3410 Meadow  
Creek Ln., Temple, TX 76504.  
(254) 742-8333; Baylor Medical Center,  
Round Rock, TX, [mark.labaj@utexas.edu](mailto:mark.labaj@utexas.edu)

Rev. Denise Mikeska, 3894 Apple Cider  
Road, Temple, TX 76501.  
[sbcpastordenise@yahoo.com](mailto:sbcpastordenise@yahoo.com)

Rev. Vanessa Lucia Mitchell, 2070  
Carter Lake Drive, College Station,  
TX 77845. (979) 574-0268;  
[lajoiededieu@protonmail.com](mailto:lajoiededieu@protonmail.com)  
Blog: [notboxingthear.wordpress.com](http://notboxingthear.wordpress.com)

Pastor Jose Pantin Mora, 2910 S 34th  
Street, Port Arthur, TX 77640

Rev. Joseph Polasek, P.O. Box 54,  
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[josephpolasek@yahoo.com](mailto:josephpolasek@yahoo.com)

Rev. Kay Polasek, 1108 Harrisonburg  
Lane, College Station, TX 77845.  
(979) 220-1289;  
[revkaypolasek@yahoo.com](mailto:revkaypolasek@yahoo.com)

Rev. Robbie Price, 3217 Southland Blvd.,  
San Angelo, TX 76904  
email: [rev.robbyprice@gmail.com](mailto:rev.robbyprice@gmail.com)  
cell: 505-715-2003

Rev. Mark Sebek, 9235 FM 437,  
Rogers, TX 76569. (254) 931-2000;  
[papasebek@gmail.com](mailto:papasebek@gmail.com)

Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Terrill, 7 Torch Pine  
Court, The Woodlands, TX 77381.  
(281) 744-1147  
[jerryleterrill@comcast.net](mailto:jerryleterrill@comcast.net)

Rev. Ryan Volkman, 23242 Hockman  
Rd., Defiance, Ohio, 43512, (325)  
213-0671; [ryvolkman@gmail.com](mailto:ryvolkman@gmail.com)

### RETIRED PASTORS

Rev. Linda Von Chandler, 13108 North  
Ridge Circle, Leander, TX 78641.  
(512) 836-2712

Rev. Curtis Holland, 1017 Southwood,  
Waco, TX 76712. (254) 715-0477

Rev. Lawrence Junek, 3316 Lyle,  
Waco, TX 76708. (254) 722-4194

Rev. Al Newby, 2210 Forest Trail,  
Temple, TX 76502. (254) 778-1860

Rev. Tommy Tallas, 206 Glenmore  
Drive, San Angelo, TX 76903.  
(325) 656-8558; [rev.tjt@gmail.com](mailto:rev.tjt@gmail.com)

Rev. Larry Zabcik, 2013 Burnie Bishop  
Place, Cedar Park, TX 78613.  
(512) 992-5824; [zabcikville@ymail.com](mailto:zabcikville@ymail.com)

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*– from the editor*

*The Brethren Journal has been publishing life and activities of the Unity of the Brethren in Texas for over 100 years. All of these include records of weddings, baptisms, deaths, etc., of the ministers... when they were submitted. These records are invaluable for families who wish to research their family history or activities that have taken place in our congregations and the denomination. It would be fitting, in the eyes of the Brethren Journal Business Committee, to ask for financial support for the continuation of this publication.*

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